

March 17, 2015

MT Environmental Quality Council
PO Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704

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LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

RE: **Combined Notice: Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice to Public of Request for Release of Funds (FONSI/NOI/RROF)**
South Winds County Water and Sewer District (CWSD), Great Falls, Cascade County,
MT – Water and Wastewater Improvements Project

To Whom it May Concern:

The above referenced project has been awarded \$450,000 from the Montana CDBG program. The Montana CDBG program uses a Combined Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (FONSI / NOI / RROF) as provided for under 24 CFR 58.44.

The enclosed FONSI/NOI/RROF for the South Wind CWSD water and wastewater project will be published in the Great Falls Tribune on March 20, 2014.

Sincerely,

Crystal Morgan

Crystal Morgan
NCI Engineering Co.

Enclosure: FONSI/ NOI/ RROF

**COMBINED NOTICE: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT and NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF
REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS (FONSI/NOI/RRF)**

March 20, 2015

Cascade County
325 2nd Avenue North, #111
Great Falls, MT 59401
(406)454-6810

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

On or before April 9, 2015, Cascade County will request the Montana Department of Commerce (MDOC) to release Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds provided under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (PL 93-383) for the South Wind County Water and Sewer District to construct new water and wastewater facilities near Great Falls, Cascade County, MT

Finding of No Significant Impact

It has been determined that such request for release of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and accordingly the above named Cascade County has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91-190).

The reasons for the decision not to prepare such Statement are as follows: Cascade County, through the South Wind County Water and Sewer District (CWSD) engineering consultant, completed the Environmental Assessment (EA) following the requirements of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, as required by HUD Environmental Review procedures for the CDBG program (24 CFR 58.36). Satisfactory completion of EA form meets the requirements of the federal Housing and Community Development Act as well as the national Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In order to demonstrate compliance with the environmental requirements of the other related federal environmental laws and regulations listed in the HUD Statutory Checklist (24 CFR 58.5), a Statutory Checklist was completed as part of the EA form. The requirements of the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and the uniform State administrative rules adopted pursuant to the Act are included into the consolidated EA form.

Through the Preliminary Engineering Report and EA process, the South Wind CWSD determined that the proposed new water and wastewater systems will improve the environmental conditions of the area and improve the overall operation and maintenance capabilities of the utility systems.

The water system improvements included: Addition of a new water supply well, selective distribution system replacement, and construction of a new 30,000-gallon water storage tank will improve the operation and maintenance capabilities of the water supply system. The proposed wastewater system improvements include: replacing the existing undersized and "non-discharging" lagoon system with modern treatment technology that meets current MT DEQ-2 design criteria, Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM), Montana Water Quality Act, and MPDES criteria; treatment technology will include mechanical /package plant treatment with disposal to a drainfield; and repair and rehabilitation of the existing wastewater collection system.

Through this EA, the County and District have verified that none of the adverse impacts of the proposed project are significant. A request to the Montana Department of Commerce for release of funds for within the project is not an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and no EIS is required. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) can be made.

An Environmental Review Record documenting review of all project activities in respect to impacts on the environment has been made by Cascade County. This Environmental Review Record is on file at the above address and is available for public examination and copying upon request between the hours of 9:00 a.m and

4:30 p.m. No further environmental review of such project is proposed to be conducted prior to the request for release of CDBG project funds.

Public Comments on Findings

All interested agencies, groups and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by Cascade County to 325 2nd Avenue North, #111, Great Falls, MT 59401, on or before April 1, 2015. All such comments so received will be considered and Cascade County will not request release of funds or take any administrative action on the project prior to the date specified in the preceding sentence.

Release of Funds

Cascade County will undertake the project described above with CDBG funds provided by MDOC under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. Cascade County is certifying to MDOC that Cascade County and Commissioner Chairman Jane Weber, in her official capacity as Chairman, consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision-making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect on the certification is that, upon its approval, Cascade County may use the CDBG funds and MDOC will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Objections to State Release of Funds

MDOC will accept an objection to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification only if it is on one of the following bases:

- (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the chief executive officer or other officer approved by the Montana Department of Commerce;
- (b) that the applicant's environmental review record for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding, or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process;
- (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by MDOC; or
- (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental design.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and may be addressed to: Department of Commerce, Community Development Division, 301 S Park Avenue, PO Box 200523, Helena, Montana 59620.

Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by MDOC. No objection received after April 24, 2015 will be considered by MDOC.

Jane Weber
Cascade County Commissioner Chairman
Environmental Certifying Officer

Date: March 20, 2015

Cascade County Commission
325 2nd Avenue North #111
Great Falls, MT 59401